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*Tattooing, Cicatricial Marking, and Body-painting. A contribution to comparative ethnology [Tätowiren, Narbenzeichnen und Körperbemalen. Ein Beitrag zur vergleichenden Ethnologie]* by Wilhelm Joest, with 11 chromo-lithographs, 1 photo-gravure, and 30 zinc etchings from original drawings by O. Finsch, Cl. Joest, J. Kubary, and P. Preissler, with original communications by O. Finsch and J. Kubary. Berlin, 1887.

This is a magnificent folio of 136 pages and 12 plates. It is printed in large, clear type (Roman), on heavy paper, with leaded lines and wide margins. The eminent ethnologist, Dr. Adolf Bastian, to whom the work is dedicated, need not feel ashamed of the outward appearance of the offering.

The subject being one which naturally demands colored plates for its illustration, the author has taken full advantage of the lithographer's art. Among the many beautiful figures presented, none are so artistic and wonderful as those of the Japanese, whose trunks and limbs, tattooed from neck to wrists and knees, seem covered with the richest silken fabrics. This elaborate tattooing is mostly confined to laboring men of the lowest class in Japan, who find it convenient in hot weather to work with as little clothing as can properly be worn.

On the whole, the work is a contribution of the highest value to the study of this subject. The author's opinion, however, that "tattooing has nothing to do with the religion of savages, but is only a sport or a means of adornment, which at most has connection with the attainment of maturity," is one which will not be generally concurred in by those who have studied this practice as it exists among our American aborigines.

W. M.